

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-20

AGR-20 EB-11 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-03 RSR-01 /113 W  
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O R 182044 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5055

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PAN, CO, EAGR, ETRN

SUBJ: FMD CONTROL

REF BOGOTA

PASS USDA FOR ASST SECY YEUTTER

1. EMB CONCURS WITH THE U S TEAM MEMBERS VIEW EXPRESSED REFTEL THAT THE COLOMBIAN - U S JOINT TECH TEAM' S REPORT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AN EFFECTIVE FMD CONTROL PROGRAM IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED DAIEN HIGHWAY. THE MAJOR EFFORT NOW SHOULD BE DEVOTED GETTING THE AGREED TECH RECOMMENDATIONS NAILED DOWN ASAP IN A FORMAL AGREEMENT.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN CURRENT MOMENTUM BY INITIATING THE NEXT PHASE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FMD CONTROL AGREEMENT AND ON THE COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT MECHANISM WITHIN 30 DAYS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TEAM. WHILE THE GOC IS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE NECESSITY FOR ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL PARK AND PROTECTED FOREST AREA ASAP IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL PROCEED BEFORE A FORMAL FMD CONTROL AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. EACH DAY OF DELAY PERMITS FURTHER INFLUX OF SETTLERS INTO THESE AREAS INCREASING THE RISK  
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OF FMD MOVEMENT NORTH AND COMPOUNDING THE DIFFICULTY AND EXPENSE OF RELOCATING THESE PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE. IN ADDITION THERE IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY THAT KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES ( I. E., ESTUPINAN HAS BEEN OFFERED AN FAO JOB) COULD COMPLICATE NEGOTIATIONS IF DELAYED TOO LONG.

3. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL COLOMBIAN REPS WERE EMPHATIC THAT THE FINANCING FOR ADDITIONAL FMD CONTROL MEASURES ( I. E., ESTABLISHING PARK AND PROTECTED FOREST, RELOCATION OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS, AND ACCELERATION OF ERRADICATION PROGRAMS ) SHOULD COME FROM BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES IN THE FORM OF CONTRIBUTIONS. WHILE TACTICALLY IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO PROPOSE LOAN FINANCING AGAIN AT THE FORTHCOMING HIGH LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS, WE SHOULD HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS THAT THIS TYPE OF FINANCING WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOC FOR THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE FMD PROGRAM. SINCE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS MAY WELL DEPEND ON WORKING OUT OF A SATISFACTORY FINAN FORMULA EMB STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT U S REPS BE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER SUBSTANTIAL GRANT ASSISTANCE.

4. IN VIEW OF MIN AG VALLEJO' S NEGATIVE REACTION TO CONCEPT OF A COLOMBIAN- U S JOINT COMMISSION ALONG THE LINES OF THE U S MEXICAN COMMISSION WE SHARE THE TEAMS PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENT RE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING AGREEMENT FROM THE GOC ON A MECHANISM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE THE U S THE DEGREE OF CONTROL OVER FMD PROGRAM WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF NOT NECESSARY. ALTHOUGH THE MECHANISM WHICH IS EVENTUALLY AGREED COULD PROVIDE FOR CONTINUOUS US INPUT THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO LIKELIHOOD THAT THE GOC WILL PERMIT DIRECT U S PARTICIPATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM. WHILE WE WOULD IN EFFECT HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURE OF U S FUNDS, THIS WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO ASSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF AN EFFECTIVE FMD PROGRAM. IT IS THEREFORE IN EMB' S VIEW VITAL TO DELAY FURTHER CONSTRUCTION OF THE DARIEN HIGHWAY UNTIL A SATISFACTORY FMD CONTROL PROGRAM HAS BEEN AGREED, IMPLEMENTED AND TESTED.

5. EMB THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT NO FURTHER HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION BE PERMITTED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BORDER UNTIL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED WITH THE GOC ON A SATISFACTORY FMD CONTROL PROGRAM AND ON THE COMPOSTIION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT MECHANISM, AND UNTIL BOTH ARE IMPLEMENTED. EMB FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT NO HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION BE PERMITTED WITHIN

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25 MILES OF THE BORDER ON EITHER SIDE PENDING AN APPROPRIATE PERIOD FOR TESTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COLOMBIAN PROGRAM. SACCIO

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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